



Dedicated to my beloved father

Late Priyanath Brahma

&

My family members

.....

Barkhang Brahma

DECLARATION

I do hereby declare that the Thesis entitled “**Design and Development of Phase Change Material Integrated Solar Air Heater for Drying Application in Agriculture**” being submitted to the Department of Energy, Tezpur University, is a record of original research work carried out by me. All sources of assistance have been assigned due acknowledgement. I also declare that neither this work as a whole nor a part of it has been submitted to any other University or Institute for any other degree, diploma, or award.

Place: Tezpur

(Barkhang Brahma)

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CERTIFICATE OF THE SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that the Thesis entitled “**Design and Development of Phase Change Material Integrated Solar Air Heater for Drying Application in Agriculture**”, submitted to the Department of Energy, School of Engineering, Tezpur University in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Energy is a record of research work carried out by Mr. Barkhang Brahma under my supervision and guidance.

All help received by him from various sources has been duly acknowledged.

No part of this Thesis has been submitted elsewhere for award of any other degree.

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(Barkhang Brahma)

LIST OF TABLES

Table Number	Description	Page No.
Table 2.1	Overview of some PCMs reported in literature	17-18
Table 2.2	PCM selection methodology for some applications	19-20
Table 2.3	A brief review of integration of PCMs in SAH	23-24
Table 2.4	Performance of PCMs based solar dryers	25-26
Table 3.1	The scoring criteria applied to each decision parameter	45
Table 3.2	Reference values of the weights	46
Table 3.3	Thermophysical properties of the pre-selected PCM for heating application.	51
Table 3.4	Value of the decision parameters	52
Table 3.5	Pre-selected PCM candidates overall average score and ranking	53
Table 3.6	Thermal stability of solid-liquid phase transition of paraffin wax	61
Table 3.7	Thermal stability of solid-liquid phase transition of stearic acid	62
Table 3.8	Thermal stability of solid-liquid phase transition of acetamide	62
Table 3.9	Corrosion rate of PCM metal containers	63
Table 3.10	Reference for corrosion rate analysis used in industry	64
Table 3.11	Surface profile measurement of the metal specimens before and after treatment with stearic acid paraffin wax, and acetamide.	70
Table 4.1	Parameters used in numerical computations	88
Table 4.2	Thermo-physical properties of different PCMs	89
Table 4.3	Different locations of thermocouples during performance test	92
Table 4.4	Parameters considered for PCM melting depth estimation with different operation conditions for three different PCMs.	98
Table 4.5	Amount of PCM required for PCM cavity	99
Table 4.6	Specifications of PCMSAH	99
Table 4.7	Uncertainty of parameters in the measurement	107
Table 5.1	Components and materials used in PCMSD	115
Table 5.2	Specifications of PCMSD	116
Table 5.3	Thermocouple locations in PCMSD	118
Table 5.4	Mass shrinkage ratio of PCMSD and open sun dry	129
Table 5.5	Average SEC and SM during tomato drying in PCMSD	132

Table Number	Description	Page No.
Table 5.6	Capital cost of components used in PCMSD	139
Table 5.7	Annualised cost of PCMSD with different PCMs	140
Table 5.8	Economic payback period of PCMSD with different PCMs	140
Table 5.9	Embodied energy of components of PCMSD	141-142

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Number	Description	Page No.
Fig.1.1	Physical map of solar radiation of India	3
Fig. 3.1	Corrosion test of meatal strips (a) aluminium (b) stainless steel (c) mild steel (d) copper with Stearic acid up to 1000 thermal cycling test	49
Fig. 3.2	Corrosion test of meatal strips (a) aluminium (b) stainless steel (c) mild steel (d) copper with Paraffin wax up to 1000 thermal cycling test	49
Fig. 3.3	Corrosion test of metal strips (a) aluminium (b) stainless steel (c) mild steel (d) copper with acetamide up to 1000 thermal cycling test.	49
Fig. 3.4	Microscopic imaging of meatal specimens with ZEISS, Stemi 305 Stereomicroscope	50
Fig. 3.5	Surface profiling of metal specimens with Surtronic S -128	50
Fig. 3.6	TGA curve of (a) paraffin wax, (b) stearic acid, and (c) acetamide	54-55
Fig. 3.7	DSC curve of paraffin wax at (a) 0th, (b) 500th and (c) 1000th thermal cycle	56-57
Fig. 3.8	DSC curve of stearic acid at (a) 0th, (b) 500th and (c) 1000th thermal cycle	57-58
Fig. 3.9	DSC curves of acetamide at (a) 0th, (b) 500th and (c) 1000th thermal cycle	59-60
Fig. 3.10	Optical micrograph of (a) aluminium, (b) copper, (c) mild Steel, and (d) stainless steel before treatment with stearic acid and (e) aluminium, (f) copper, (g) mild Steel, and (h) stainless steel after treatment with stearic acid	65
Fig. 3.11	Optical micrograph of (a) aluminium, (b) copper, (c) mild Steel, and (d) stainless steel before treatment with paraffin wax and (e) aluminium, (f) copper, (g) mild Steel, and (h) stainless steel after treatment with paraffin wax	65
Fig. 3.12	Optical micrograph of (a) aluminum, (b) copper (c) mild steel (d) stainless steel (SS304) before treatment and (e) aluminum, (f) copper (g) mild steel (h) stainless steel (SS304) after treatment with acetamide	66
Fig. 3.13	Surface roughness profile of (a) aluminium, (b) mild steel, (c) stainless steel and (d) copper before treatment with stearic acid and (e) aluminium, (f) mild steel, (g) stainless steel and (h) copper after treatment with stearic acid.	67

Figure Number	Description	Page No.
Fig. 3.14	Surface roughness profile of (a) aluminium, (b) mild steel, (c) stainless steel and (d) copper before treatment with paraffin wax and (e) aluminium, (f) mild steel, (g) stainless steel and (h) copper after treatment with paraffin wax	68
Fig. 3.15	Surface roughness profile of (a) aluminium, (b) copper (c) mild steel (d) Stainless steel (SS304) before treatment and (e) aluminium, (f) copper (g) mild steel (h) Stainless steel (SS304) after treatment with acetamide	69
Fig. 4.1	Location of the experimental site	79
Fig. 4.2	Thermo-schematic diagram of the PCMSHAG	80
Fig. 4.3	Solar radiation, ambient temperature, and wind speed in the experimental site	87
Fig. 4.4	DSC curve of (a) paraffin wax (b) acetamide and (c) stearic acid for melting point and latent heat of fusion value	89-90
Fig. 4.5	Solar air heater with and without PCM	92
Fig. 4.6	Theoretical outlet temperature with varying length of absorber and mass flow rates (a) 0.018 kg/s (b) 0.028 kg/s (c) 0.038 kg/s and (d) 0.048 kg/s with acetamide as PCM	94
Fig. 4.7	Theoretical outlet temperature with varying length of absorber and mass flow rates (a) 0.018 kg/s (b) 0.028 kg/s (c) 0.038 kg/s and (d) 0.048 kg/s with stearic acid as PCM	95
Fig. 4.8	Theoretical outlet temperature with varying length of absorber and mass flow rates (a) 0.018 kg/s (b) 0.028 kg/s (c) 0.038 kg/s and (d) 0.048 kg/s with paraffin wax as PCM	96
Fig. 4.9	Theoretical useful energy with varying air mass flow rate and length of the absorber plate	97
Fig. 4.10	Depth of the PCM melt for varying air mass flow rate and absorber plate area	98
Fig. 4.11	(a) Front view of SHAG breadth wise. (b) side view of SHAG length wise. (c) schematic of SHAG with support and stand	100
Fig. 4.12	Experimental outlet temperature of SHAG with (a) acetamide (b) stearic acid (c) paraffin wax PCMs and without PCM	101-102

Figure Number	Description	Page No.
Fig. 4.13	Solar Radiation and Plate temperature for SHAG with three different PCMs	102
Fig. 4.14	Theoretical and experimental outlet temperatures of PCMSHAG with (a) acetamide, (b) stearic acid and (c) paraffin wax	103
Fig. 4.15	Absorbed, useful, lost and stored heat of the SHAG with (a) acetamide (b) stearic acid and (c) paraffin wax as PCM.	104-105
Fig. 4.16	Absorbed, useful, lost and stored heat of the SHAG with (a) acetamide (b) stearic acid and (c) paraffin wax.	106
Fig. 5.1	PCMSD schematic diagram	114
Fig. 5.2	Thermocouple locations in PCMSD	118
Fig. 5.3	Tomato drying in PCMSD and open sun drying	119
Fig. 5.4	Input parameters of the PCMSD from the experiment	126-127
Fig. 5.5	Moisture removal rate of tomato by PCMSD and open sun dry	128-129
Fig. 5.6	Collector actual heat received, and usable heat gained	130
Fig. 5.7	Energy efficiency of collector	131
Fig. 5.8	Energy efficiency of dryer	132
Fig. 5.9	Exergy inflow and outflow of collector	133-134
Fig. 5.10	Collector exergy efficiency	135
Fig. 5.11	Exergy inflow and outflow of dryer chamber	136-137
Fig. 5.12	Dryer exergy efficiency	138

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

A	Area of absorber plate
A_d	Drying bed area
AC	Annual cost of PCMSD
AMC	Annual maintenance cost
ASV	Annual salvage value
AUE	Annual useful energy
A_m	Surface area of metal specimens
b	Breadth of the absorber plate
C_d	Cost of drying per kg of dried tomato
c_p	Specific heat of fluid (air)
C_{st}	Specific heat of PCM
CR	Corrosion rate
CRF	Capital recovery factor
CT	Capital cost of PCMSD
d_f	Spacing between glass to absorber plate
d_{PCM}	Depth of the PCM
DSC	Differential scanning calorimetry
D_y	Total number of active sunshine days per annum for PCMSD operation
E_{AO}	Annual thermal energy output of the dryer
E_{DO}	Daily thermal energy output of the PCMSD
E_{cPBP}	Economic payback period
E_{nPBP}	Energy payback period
E_{emb}	Embodied energy
Ex_{in_c}	Exergy inflow to the collector
Ex_{in_d}	Exergy inflow to the drying chamber
Ex_{loss_c}	Exergy loss of exergy of solar collector
Ex_{loss_d}	Exergy loss of exergy from drying chamber
Ex_{out_c}	Exergy outflow from the collector
Ex_{out_d}	Exergy outflow from the drying chamber
FAC	First annual cost
g	Acceleration due to gravity and gram

Gr	Grashof number
h	Heat transfer coefficient
I	Solar radiation
i	Rate of interest
k	thermal conductivity
L	Length of absorber plate
LHS	Latent heat storage
LHTESS	Latent heat thermal energy storage system
L_1	Length of collector
L_2	Width of collector
L_3	Depth of collector
L_i	Internal losses
L_{st}	Latent heat of PCM
L_t	Transmission losses
L_w	Latent heat of vaporization of water
M	Mass of PCM
\dot{m}	Mass flow rate of air
Δm	Mass loss
m_i	Initial mass of tomato
m_f	Final mass of tomato
m_t	Mass of the product (tomato)
$m(t_o)$	Initial mass of the metal specimens
$m(t)$	Final mass of the metal specimens
m_w	Annual moisture removed from tomato
n	Lifetime of PCMSD
N_u	Nusselt number
P_c	Annual power cost
P_{dry}	Price of the dried tomato per kg
$P_{e/kWh}$	Price of the electricity per kWh
P_{fresh}	Price of the fresh tomato per kg
P_r	Prandtl number
PCM	Phase change material
PCMSAH	Phase change material integrated solar sir heater

PCMSD	Phase change material based solar dryer
Q_A	Absorbed heat
Q_{dry}	Quantity of dry tomato produced annually
Q_{fresh}	Quantity of fresh tomato to be dried annually
Q_{loss}	Heat loss
Q_{st}	Heat stored
Q_u	Useful heat
R_a	Roughness average of metal specimens
Ra'	Rayleigh number
R_t	Maximum peak-to-valley height of metal specimens
RPD	Relative percentage difference
S	Savings from PCMSD annually
SAH	Solar air heater
SEC	Specific energy consumption
SFF	Sinking fund factor
SM	Specific moisture extraction
SR	Mass shrinkage ratio
SV	Salvage value
T	Temperature
t	Time of operation per day
T_{ci}	Fluid inlet Temperature
T_m	Mean of inlet and outlet temperature
T_{co}	Fluid outlet temperature
T_r	Sun temperature
TES	Thermal energy storage
TESS	Thermal energy storage system
TGA	Thermogravimetry analysis
U_{loss}	Overall loss-coefficient
V	Velocity
V_o	Outside wind velocity
W	Power consumed by the electric blower
x	Drying bed thickness
Z_p	Absorber plate thickness

α	Absorptivity
α'	Thermal diffusivity
ε	Emissivity
ρ	Density
ρ_t	Bulk density of tomato
τ	Transmissivity
μ	Kinematic viscosity
η	Efficiency
η_{Ex_c}	Exergy efficiency for the solar collector
η_{Ex_d}	Exergy efficiency for the drying chamber
σ	Stefan Boltzmann's constant
θ	Tilt angle
δ_b	Bottom insulation thickness
δ_e	Edge insulation thickness
ζ	Porosity of the drying tray

Subscripts

a	Ambient
av	Average
b	Bottom
c	Channel
con	Convective
d	Drying chamber
e	Edge
f	Fluid (air)
fin_{ch}	Final charging process
fin_{dis}	Final discharging process
g	Glass
i	Insulation, inlet
in_{ch}	Initial charging process
in_{dis}	Initial discharging process
l	Liquid
p	Absorber plate
rad	Radiative

<i>s</i>	Solid
<i>st</i>	Stored (PCM)
<i>t</i>	Top
<i>w</i>	Wind